

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 24,, lines 4-16, please amend paragraph as follows:

In western blot studies, HIP1 is identified as a 120 kd protein (11, 23), while the putative translation of the previously published cDNA gives a protein product of estimated molecular weight of approximately 100 kd. If HIP1 gene were translated from the ATG 284 bp upstream of the exon 1, the expected product would have an estimated molecular weight of 122 kd. RNA PCR studies with primers downstream of this ATG and primers in exon 7 amplify expected products of 576 and 600 bp. Taken together these data support the contention that exon 1 extends further 5' and that HIP1 gene is translated from the ATG in exon 1. Sequence analyses showed no TATA, CAAT box or any GC rich promoter sequence upstream of exon 1 ATG. The promoter prediction programs ~~provided by the server http://dot.imgen.bcm.tmc.edu:9331/seq/search/gene.search.html~~ did not predict any promoter upstream of the ATG at position -284, (position 0 corresponds to the first nucleotide of published cDNA, GenBank accession U79734). See PCT/US99/11743 for the specific promoter prediction program, the contents of which are incorporated in their entirety herein. This suggests that HIP1 may have additional exons.